logues of elaters, containing chlorophyll bodies which remain green almost to the time of ripening of the spore. In the October number Professors G. F. Atkinson, of Cornell University, and W. C. Coker, of the University of North Carolina, describe a minute new species of *Geaster, G. leptospermus,* belonging to the fornicate section of the genus, which was found growing upon mosses on tree trunks by Professor Coker.—Professor B. M. Davis, of the University of Chicago, notes the occurrence of spores of a *Tilletia* (?) in the capsule of *Ricciocarpus natans,* and Dr. Florence M. Lyon figures a section of the sporophyll and axis of *Selaginella rupestris,* showing two megasporangia, a phenomenon not hitherto reported.—There are the usual reviews of current literature and items of news.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB,

At a meeting of the club held at the College of Pharmacy on October 15, 1903, Dr. Rusby occupied the chair.

The scientific program consisted of brief informal reports on the summer's work by the different members.

Dr. Britton reported having made a second trip to Cuba, leaving New York the latter part of August. He was accompanied by Mrs. Britton and Mr. Percy Wilson. In part the same ground was covered as in his first expedition, but the journey was continued into the province of Santa Clara. At Sagua a small area was encountered covered by an isolated flora somewhat similar to that found at Madruga on the first trip. Both areas were characterized by an abundance of a peculiar palm that was not seen elsewhere. The species is as yet undetermined, but living specimens have been successfully brought to the garden. Both of these peculiar plant associations are on soil areas quite different from the prevailing coral-limestone formation.

Mr. Earle reported having made a trip to Porto Rico in the interest of the Department of Agriculture during the last of May and the first of June. The trip was mostly for the purpose of noting the diseases of economic plants, and a report has been submitted to the department. One of the most interesting things observed was the occurrence of several fungous diseases of scale insects. Two of these diseases were abundant enough to constitute efficient checks on the scales attacked.

Professor Lloyd reported having spent some weeks on the island of Dominica, accompanied by Mrs. Lloyd. He observed many orchards of limes in poor condition owing to the attacks of scale insects and wood-destroying fungi. He illustrated his exploration of the island by means of a blackboard map showing the position of three volcanic craters and of the highest peak visited, 4,700 feet. A large collection of herbarium material was secured.

Professor Underwood spoke on the ferns of Jamaica. He left New York early in January, spending five months in Jamaica and eastern Cuba. Jamaica is especially rich in ferns, about five hundred species being known from the island. Of these he collected over four hundred, mostly in the Blue Mountain region from an area about equal to that of Westchester County. A hundred species may be taken along the bridle path from Cinchona to Morce's Gap, a distance of three miles. Tree ferns become abundant at an elevation of about 3,000 feet. Thirty species are more or less common. The trunks are often covered by rich growths of filmy ferns, of which about sixty species occur. The John Crow Mountains in eastern Jamaica have never been visited by botanists and the 'Cock Pit Country' in the western end of the island had not been previously visited. He spent a week, accompanied by Mr. Harris, of Hope Gardens, Jamaica, in exploring one corner of this region and found many things of interest.

Mr. Nash reported on his recent trip to Haiti. The country belongs to the negroes and a white man has to take second place. The island is 407 miles long by 195 miles wide, with extremely diversified topography. There are two main ranges of mountains. Large salt lakes occur in the southern portion. In the north-central area there are large pine forests. The strand flora is much like that of the other islands, but as you get into the interior the character entirely changes and there are

many endemic species. Tree ferns begin at 1,500 feet elevation, but they are much more abundant at 3,500 feet, the highest point reached by the expedition. There are no roads in the interior, only uncared for bridle trails, and there are absolutely no bridges. One stream was forded sixteen times in a distance of twelve miles. A thousand numbers of herbarium material were secured besides living plants and wood specimens.

Dr. Howe spoke of two months spent in Porto Rico collecting marine algæ. He found the species fairly numerous, but on the whole the marine vegetation was less striking and luxuriant than on some of the Florida keys. He visited the north, west and south sides of the island, but found less difference in their algal flora than he had expected. Nine hundred numbers were taken, but so far most of the material is unstudied.

Dr. Murrill reported on his visits to various European herbaria for the purpose of studying types of the species of the Polyporaceæ. Upsala, Berlin, Kew and Paris were visited and some time was spent in field work with Bresadola in the mountains of the Tyrol. Interesting comments were made on the different herbaria and the men who made or are now working with them.

Professor Underwood called attention to the fact that the different expeditions from the botanical garden during the past year had brought back fully 10,000 numbers of herbarium material from the West Indies.

Dr. Britton spoke of the recent death, after a long and painful illness, of Mr. Cornelius Van Brunt, who was one of the oldest members of the club. His work in the photographing of plants was unique, and he leaves a collection of over 10,000 studies on glass. He had done much in devising special lenses and appliances for this special work and his knowledge of photographic technique was remarkable. His earlier studies were with the diatoms, but failing eyesight prevented his work with the microscope and he turned to photography instead. Data are being gathered for a more extended notice of his life.

F. S. EARLE,
Secretary.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.
SECTION OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY.

THE Section met in the large lecture hall of the American Museum of Natural History on Monday evening, October 19. Three hundred and fifty-two members and friends were present. The following papers had been presented by Dr. George F. Kunz for reading by title:

Bismuth (Native) and Bismite from San Bernardino County, Calif.

Californite (Vesuvianite), a New Ornamental Stones from Siskiyou County, Calif.

The meeting was devoted mainly to a paper by Dr. E. O. Hovey entitled 'Observations on the 1902–1903 Eruptions of Mt. Pelé, Martinique.' In this paper or lecture the author sketched the principal events in the volcanic history of the island during the past year and a half. He described the phenomena of the eruptions, the mud-torrents and mud-flows, the attendant and subsequent aqueous erosion on the slopes of the mountain, the rise and vicissitudes of the new cone of eruption and its wonderful spine or obelisk. The lecture was illustrated with about ninety-five lantern slides from negatives taken by the author on the two expeditions which he has made to Martinique for the American Museum of Natural History since the eruptions began.

EDMUND OTIS HOVEY,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

ANTEDATED PUBLICATIONS.

DURING recent years attention has been called so strongly to the evil of antedated papers published by museums and scientific societies that in general great care has been taken of late to have all brochures emanating from such sources bear the correct date of issue. It is hence all the more surprising to find one American institution of high standing still apparently careless or indifferent in the matter. We believe, however, that the impropriety about to be mentioned is due to either inadvertence or lack of appreciation of